GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3527
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2000
FEMALE INFANTICIDE
RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the widespread practice of female infanticide in different States of the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to curb this malpractice?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Women and Child Development sponsored seven independent sample studies in nine States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Naduand Uttar Pradesh during 1993-94. These studies revealed that female infanticide is in practice amongst a few communities in certain parts of the country.

(c) Infanticide is a criminal act under the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The Government of India has enactedthe Pre- Natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 to curb the pre-natal diagnostic techniques for sex determination leading to female foeticide. Enforcement of these Acts is the primary responsibility of the State Governments and UnionTerritory Administrations. The Department of Women & Child Development also launched the Balika Samriddhi Yojana on 2nd October1997 with the objective of raising the overall status of the girl and bringing about a positive change in family and community attitudes towards her.